

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095388
ORIGIN IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. DURING SYG WALDHEIM'S MARCH TALK WITH PRESIDENT CARTER SYG ADVISED HE INTENDS TO EXTEND JOHN HANNAH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), FOR PERHAPS A YEAR. IN LATER TALK WITH IO MAYNES, AND OTHERS, HANNAH STATED SYG WISHED EXTEND HIM INDEFINITELY BUT HE PLANNED TO STEP DOWN SOME THREE TO SIX MONTHS AFTER THE THIRD PREP COM (JUNE 20-24) IF WFC SESSION IS SUCCESSFUL AND IF A REPLACEMENT IS AGREED UPON. HANNAH FEELS STRONGLY THAT HIS REPLACEMENT MUST BE AN AMERICAN. WHILE WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS PARTICULAR POSITION MUST CONTINUE TO BE FILLED BY AN AMERICAN WE REGARD THE POSITION AS
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QUITE IMPORTANT AND BELIEVE IT SHOULD REMAIN IN DEVELOPED COUNTRY HANDS SINCE LDC CANDIDATES (MAREI OF EGYPT AND TANCO OF THE PHILIPPINES) ARE VYING FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

2. BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING INTENT OF SYG RE HANNAH'S PROPOSED EXTENSION AND EVENTUAL REPLACEMENT. (RULES PROVIDE FOR

APPOINTMENT BY THE SYG, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FAO

DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.)

3. WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ASK WALDHEIM SPECIFICALLY HOW HE INTENDS HANDLE HANNAH EXTENSION, TIMING OF LATER REPLACEMENT AND POSSIBLE CANDIDACIES. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT HE WILL WISH ACT ON EXTENSION PRIOR TO MANILA SESSION AND, DEPENDING ON PERIOD FOR WHICH HE HAS DECIDED RETAIN DR. HANNAH, POSSIBLY CONSULT COUNCIL AT THAT SESSION ON THE SUCCESSOR.

4. FYI. IN COURSE HANNAH'S WASHINGTON TALKS HE STATED THAT HE HAD ENCOURAGED GROUP OF 77 AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN ROME TO SUPPORT A NEW BUREAU FOR THE COUNCIL, I.E., A NEW PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS AND A RAPPORTEUR. HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIS POSITION AS INCLUDED IN THE BUREAU (WHICH IT IS NOT) BUT REPORTS FROM ROME INDICATE THAT THE G-77 WANTS TO REPLACE HIM ALONG WITH THOSE WHO DO CONSTITUTE THE BUREAU. THIS MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW WHAT SYG INTENDS. TIMING IS CRITICAL SINCE THESE LEADERSHIP ISSUES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SURFACE FIRST IN THE WFC PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, ROME, MAY 9-13.
VANCE

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